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Application of an intergovernmental organization for observer status with the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 17 April 2006 from the Chairman of the South Centre addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

As you know, the South Centre is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries holding offices at Geneva. The South Centre was formally established in July 1995 when the 1994 Intergovernmental Agreement to Establish the South Centre, which is currently deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General, entered into force. We currently have 50 developing country member States.

According to the Intergovernmental Agreement, the South Centre has the following among its central objectives:

- To promote South solidarity, South consciousness and mutual knowledge and understanding among the countries and peoples of the South.
- To promote various types of South-South cooperation and action, South-South links, networking and information exchange.
- To contribute to South-wide collaboration in promoting common interests and coordinated participation by developing countries in international forums dealing with South-South and North-South matters, as well as with other global concerns.
- To foster convergent views and approaches among countries of the South with respect to global economic, political and strategic issues related to evolving concepts of development, sovereignty and security.
- To contribute to better mutual understanding and cooperation between the South and the North on the basis of equity and justice for all and, to this end,

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to the democratization and strengthening of the United Nations and its family of organizations.

Broadly, the Centre works to assist in developing points of view of the South on major policy issues, and to generate ideas and action-oriented proposals for consideration by the collectivity of South Governments, institutions of South-South cooperation, intergovernmental organizations of the South, and non-governmental organizations and the community at large. In order to meet its objectives, and within the limits of its capacity and mandate, the Centre also aims to respond to requests for policy advice, and for technical and other support from collective entities of the South such as the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement.

In carrying out the mandate above, the South Centre considers the United Nations to be one of its major partners, especially in the context of promoting and supporting the development objectives and aspirations of the South. In this regard, the work of the Economic and Social Council is of great relevance to the South and, therefore, of prime importance to the South Centre.

In this context, on behalf of the South Centre and its Board, I would like therefore to request that the South Centre be granted status as a permanent observer organization in the sessions and the work of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Boutros **Boutros-Ghali**
Chairman
South Centre Board